



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

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File Code: 3410

Date: January 14, 2003

Rob Baracker
Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Southwestern Regional Office
615 First Street, Plaza Maya
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Baracker:

During the months of July and August 2002, Richard Norris of our staff conducted our annual forest insect and disease aerial detection survey over Tribal lands, National Forests, and adjacent State and private lands in New Mexico. Enclosed are three GIS formatted maps showing the insect and disease activity detected during this survey. Please contact us for assistance if you wish to download the ARC/Info data files. For comparison, both 2001 and 2002 survey results are summarized in tabular form in the attached Excel workbook. Spreadsheets contained in the workbook are titled by ownership. Copies of this letter, locally relevant color-plotted maps, and selected spreadsheets are being forwarded to the BIA Northern and Southern Pueblos Agencies, BIA Laguna Agency, BIA Zuni Agency, BIA Mescalero Agency, Santa Clara Pueblo, and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. Following is a brief summary of the survey results:

Tribal Lands

Aspen defoliation was detected on approximately 440 acres of the Santa Clara Pueblo and 60 acres of the Mescalero Apache tribal lands. Approximately 170 acres of ponderosa pine infected with *Lophodermella* needle cast disease were detected on Isleta Pueblo tribal lands. This disease causes infected pines to prematurely cast their needles. Piñon mortality, caused by the piñon ips beetle, was detected on 18,490 acres of the Cochiti, Jemez, and Santa Domingo Pueblo tribal lands. Ponderosa pines attacked by ips beetles, mountain pine beetles, western pine beetles and roundheaded pine beetles were also detected on the Jemez and Santa Clara Pueblos and Mescalero Apache tribal lands. Some Douglas-fir beetle activity was observed on the Santa Clara Pueblo and some true fir beetle activity was observed on the Mescalero Apache tribal lands. Acres of mortality on Tribal lands are summarized by pest in the attached Excel worksheet, "Tribal Lands 2002 & 2001."

Insect and disease activity detected on Tribal lands of the Jicarilla Apache and Picuris and Taos Pueblos were sent under separate cover December 18, 2002, with attached map and Excel workbook summaries.

National Forest and State and Private Lands

Acres of insect defoliation and mortality detected on the Santa Fe, Cibola, and Lincoln National Forests and nearby and adjacent State and private land holding are summarized for 2001 and 2002 in the attached Excel workbook.



Note: Although we are reporting a total of 70,715 acres of piñon mortality resulting from the piñon ips beetle in New Mexico (all ownerships combined), these acreages are far below the total number of acres affected. Due to the vast acreage of piñon-juniper woodland in New Mexico, we do not have the resources to survey it all and generally only fly this type by special request.

If you have any questions regarding the survey data, or would like to download the GIS files, please contact Terry Rogers at (505) 842-3287 or via e-mail at trogers@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Debra Allen-Reid
DEBRA ALLEN-REID
New Mexico Zone Leader,
Forest Health

Enclosures (2)

cc: Leonard Lucero, Douglas L Parker, Debra Allen-Reid

BIA Northern Pueblos Agency, w/map and selected worksheets
BIA Southern Pueblos Agency, w/ map and selected worksheets
Santa Clara Pueblo, w/map and selected worksheets
BIA Laguna Agency, w/Pdf print and selected worksheets
BIA Zuni Agency, w/Pdf Print and selected worksheets
BIA Mescalero Agency, Branch of Forestry, w/map and selected worksheets
Thora Walsh Padilla, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Division of Resource Mgmt. and Protection,
w/map and selected worksheets